

## Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

**River Basin District: Anglian**

**Catchment: Chelmer & Blackwater Catchment Partnership Total Area: 988 km<sup>2</sup>**

### Reasons for designation

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership has been chosen to provide a catchment management response to improving water quality, particularly in relation to agricultural sources of diffuse water pollution. The aim is to improve raw drinking water quality in the catchment and move towards achieving 'good ecological status' under the Water Framework Directive.

### Priorities

The priorities for the Chelmer and Blackwater catchment include:

- **Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface)** – The River Blackwater and lower River Chelmer are classed as a Drinking Water Protected Area, in specific relation to pesticides and nitrate.
- **Safeguard Zones** – The Chelmer and Blackwater catchment has been designated as a Safeguard Zone with particular relation to pesticides, including metaldehyde, clopyralid, propyzamide, MCPA and bentazone.
- **Water Framework Directive** – The aim is to achieve 'good' ecological status in the catchment, with a specific focus on reducing phosphate and improving channel morphology.
- **Nitrate Vulnerable Zones** – The catchment is covered by an NVZ, with the aim of reducing nitrate losses from agriculture in line with the Nitrates Directive.

### Objectives

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- To promote resource protection and land management practices to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture, in terms of pesticides, nutrients and sediment.
- To engage farmers through a series of events, workshops and one-to-one on-farm visits.
- To enable farmers to improve the efficiency of their fertiliser, manure and pesticide use and comply with NVZ regulations.
- To reduce the occurrence of 'difficult to treat' pesticides, nitrates and phosphates, in river water, in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the EU Drinking Water Directive.

### Delivery

The events, workshops and visits in the catchment will be organised with direction from the catchment steering group. These will include:

- 17 farmer workshops
- 3 agronomist update sessions
- 52 one-to-one farm advice visits including nutrient management plans, best practice reports (for example pesticide handling area) and slug pellet, fertiliser and manure spreader and sprayer calibrations.
- 56 farm health check visits from Environment Officers
- 72 farm advice visits from Catchment Advisor
- Quarterly newsletter sent to all farmers in the catchment
- Applications to the Catchment Sensitive Farming Capital Grant Scheme.

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership is supported by the following organisations:



## Targeting Map

Advice, guidance and best practice visits are available to the catchment area as pictured:



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